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REMARKS

Applicant affirms the election of claims 1-16, 18-29 and 31-33 without traverse. The unelected claims have been withdrawn. Claims 1, 18 and 31 are the only independent claims at issue.

The examiner rejected all claims under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite. Claim 1 (presumably, as no claim number was stated) was rejected as lacking antecedent basis for "the body". The examiner inquired whether "the body" recited in step (c) refers to the body of step (a) or step (b).

Only one "body" is recited in claim 1. Step (a) recites the indefinite article "a" to introduce "solid body." Step (b) recites the definite article "the" when referring back to the solid body introduced in step (a). And step (c) recites the definite article "the" when referring back to the solid body introduced in step (a) and recited in step (b).

Claims 12 - 15 have been amended to correct the antecedent basis.

The examiner pointed to Applicant's attorney's failure to include a statement of the relevance of four references cited in the IDS that are not in English. The four references are CN 1358670, CN 1419846, JP 3409126 and TW 444067. Applicant includes herewith the English abstracts for those four references. Applicant's attorney has not ordered translations of the references in order to save the expense to Applicant, but will supply an English translation of any or all of the references upon request.

The examiner rejected claims 1, 3-5, 9-11 and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over the Avery reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,205,991). Claims 12-13, 28-29

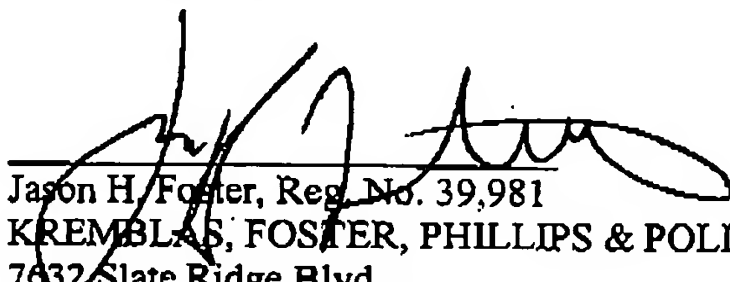
and 31-33 were indicated as allowable if they were re-written to correct the rejections under §112. The examiner stated that the Avery reference only teaches a temperature range of 74-104 degrees Fahrenheit. Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 18 to distinguish over the prior art by reciting a heat treatment step temperature of substantially greater than 105 degrees Fahrenheit. This is much higher than the highest temperature taught in the Avery reference. Thus, independent claims 1 and 18 are now allowable, as are all claims dependent thereon.

Therefore, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. The examiner is authorized to communicate with the undersigned attorney by email by the following recommended authorization language: Recognizing that Internet communications are not secure, I hereby authorize the USPTO to communicate with me concerning any subject matter of this application by electronic mail. I understand that a copy of these communications will be made of record in the application file. (Authorization pursuant to MPEP 502.03.)

The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 13-3393 for any insufficient fees under 37 CFR §§ 1.16 or 1.17, or credit any overpayment of fees.

Respectfully submitted,

26 Dec 2006
Date of Signature


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